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THE

LIFE

OF

JOHN EGERTON,

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JOHN EGERTON, late Biſhop of Durham, was the ſon of Henry, Biſhop of Hereford, fifth ſon of John, third Earl of Bridgewater, by Lady Jane Powlett, eldeſt daughter of Charles, Duke of Bolton. The Biſhop of Hereford married Lady Elizabeth Ariana Bentinck, daughter of William, Earl of Portland, and had by her one daughter, and five ſons, of whom John was the eldeſt.

He was born in London on the 30th of November, 1721, was educated at Eton ſchool, and admitted a Gentleman Commoner in Oriel College, Oxford, upon the 20th of May, 1740, under the tuition of the Rev. Dr. Bentham, afterwards Regius Profeſſor of Divinity in that Univerſity, where he proſecuted his ſtudies extenſively and ſucceſsfully for ſix or ſeven years. He was ordained Deacon privately by Dr. Benjamin Hoadly, Biſhop of Wincheſter, in Groſvenor chapel, within the precincts of Weſtminſter, on the 21ſt of December, 1745; and the following day he was ordained Prieſt, at a general ordination holden by the ſame Biſhop in the ſame place. On the 23d, he was collated by his Father to the living of Roſs in Herefordſhire, and, on the 28th, was inducted by Robert Breton, Archdeacon of Hereford. On the 3d of January, 1746, (a ſhort time before his Father's death, which happened on the 1ſt of April following,) he was collated to the Canonry or Prebend of Cublington, in the church of Hereford. Upon the 30th of May, 1746, he took the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law, for which he went out Grand Compounder. On the 21ſt of November, 1748, he was married to Lady Anne Sophia [*A*], daughter of Henry de Grey, Duke of Kent, by Sophia, daughter of William Bentinck, Earl of Portland. He was appointed Chaplain in Ordinary to the King, upon the 19th of March, 1749; and was promoted to the Deanery of Hereford on the 24th of July, 1750. He was conſecrated Biſhop of Bangor, on the 4th of July, 1756, at Lambeth; and had the temporalities reſtored to him upon the 22d, previouſly to which, on the 21ſt of May, the Univerſity of Oxford conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Civil Law, by diploma, and he was empowered to hold the living of Roſs, and the Prebend of Cublington, with that Biſhoprick, by Commendam, dated the 1ſt of July. On the 12th of October, 1768, he was tranſlated to the See of Litchfield and Coventry; and, upon the 22d of the ſame month, he

* Written for Hutchinſon's Hiſtory of Durham.

[*A*] *He was married to Lady Anne Sophia.*] Lady Sophia Egerton died upon the 24th of March, 1780. By her his Lordſhip had four children:

1. John, born in Auguſt, 1749, who died in November following.
2. Amelia, married to Sir Abraham Hume, Baronet.
3. John-William, M. P. for Brackley, Major General in the Army, &c.
4. Francis-Henry, clerk, A. M.

was

was elected to the Reſidentiaryſhip of St. Paul's, having been previouſly, on the 20th, inſtituted to the Prebend of Weldland, thereto annexed, both which preferments he held with that See, and alſo the two before-mentioned. He was inducted, inſtalled, and enthroned at Litchfield by proxy, upon the 22d of November, and had the temporalities reſtored upon the 26th. At the death of Dr. Richard Trevor, he was elected to the See of Durham, upon the 8th of July, 1771, and was confirmed on the 20th, in St. James's church, Weſtminſter. Upon the 2d of Auguſt following, he was enthroned and inſtalled at Durham by proxy. On this occaſion, Dr. Douglas the Sub-"dean congratulated the Chapter and Clergy upon their receiving, as ſucceſſor to their "late lamented dioceſan, a prelate, whoſe many well-known good qualities of heart and "underſtanding, and whoſe line of able and impartial conduct in the dioceſes he had left, "afforded a ſure omen of that ſteadineſs and wiſdom of government which promiſed equally "to promote his own honour, and the proſperity of the whole dioceſe."—The temporalities of the See were reſtored to his Lordſhip on the 15th of Auguſt, and, on the 3d of September, he made his public entry into his Palatinate.

Though qualified in all reſpects to fill this exalted ſtation [*B*], yet, ſingular as it may ſeem, it was never the object of his ambition or deſire. He appeared ſatisfied with his firſt eccleſiaſtical preferment, the living of Roſs, upon which he conſtantly reſided, diſcharging all his parochial duties in a manner the moſt exemplary: and ſo little anxious was he to obtain a ſeat on the epiſcopal bench, that he could not be prevailed upon to uſe any applications of his own for that purpoſe, and with difficulty permitted thoſe of his friends. This laſt preferment was unſolicited and unexpected [*C*]: he had previouſly declined accepting the Primacy of Ireland, and never extended his wiſhes to the Biſhoprick of Durham. Seated here, however, he turned his attention to the choice and purſuit of thoſe objects, which his judgement and moderation pointed out as moſt likely to conduce to the peace and proſperity of the county over which he was to preſide, and to the honour both of his temporal and ſpiritual government. To accompliſh this taſk required all the addreſs and talent for conciliation, of which he was ſo completely the maſter. On taking poſſeſſion of the Biſhoprick, he found the county divided by former conteſted elections, which had deſtroyed the general peace: no endeavours were wanting on his part to promote and ſecure a thorough reconciliation of contending intereſts, on terms honourable and advantageous to all; and when the affability, politeneſs, and condeſcenſion, for which he was diſtinguiſhed, uniting in a perſon of his high character and ſtation, had won the affections of all parties to himſelf, he found leſs difficulty in reconciling them to each other, and had ſoon the ſatisfaction to ſee men of the firſt diſtinction in the county conciliated by his means, and meeting in good neighbourhood at his princely table. The harmony he had ſo happily reſtored he was equally ſtudious to preſerve, which he effectually did, by treating the nobility and gentry of the county at all times with a proper regard, by paying an entire and impartial attention to their native intereſts, by forbearing to improve any opportunities of influencing their parliamentary choice in favour of his own family or particular friends, and by conſulting on all occaſions the honour of the Palatinate.

The ſame conciliating interpoſition he had uſed in the County, he employed in the City of Durham with the ſame ſucceſs. At the approach of the General Election, in 1780, he poſtponed granting the new Charter, which would conſiderably enlarge the number of voters, till ſome months after the election, that he might maintain the ſtricteſt neutrality between the candidates, and avoid even the imputation of partiality; and when he confirmed it, and freely reſtored to the City all its antient rights, privileges,

[*B*] *Though qualified in all reſpects to fill this exalted ſtation.*] This was ſo generally ſuppoſed from a review of his preceding conduct, and is ſo perfectly true, that it will neither be proper to omit mentioning the fact, nor to aſcribe to us a deſire of giving his Lordſhip undue praiſe. In all the ſeveral preferments he poſſeſſed, he was beloved, admired, and reſpected: but at Roſs, where he lived the longeſt, and was the beſt known, his pariſhioners conſidered him not only as their rector, but as their friend, their benefactor, and almoſt as their father; and he had ſo endeared himſelf to them, that there was no poſſible mark of genuine ſorrow, public or private, with which they did not, with an admiration almoſt enthuſiaſtic, do juſtice to his virtues, and manifeſt their own gratitude when he left them. It muſt, however, be confeſſed, that this was a mixed affectionate regret, a joint tribute of gratitude, paid not to the Biſhop alone, but alſo in part to Lady Sophia Egerton, whoſe character and conduct had largely contributed to raiſe the public eſtimation ſo high in favour of them both.

[*C*] *Unſolicited and unexpected.*] His Lordſhip's ill ſtate of health was the real occaſion of his being tranſlated to the ſee of Durham. Lord North was at this time Miniſter; and his brother, the preſent Biſhop of Wincheſter, was juſt arrived at the canonical age to be conſecrated a Biſhop. Lord North was adviſed to make him at once Biſhop of Durham; but, as it was unuſual to raiſe any one in the firſt inſtance to that Biſhoprick, he recommended his brother to the ſee of Lichfield and Coventry, having previouſly procured the ſee of Durham for the Biſhop of Lichfield and Coventry, who, from his ill ſtate of health, was ſuppoſed not to be likely to live long, and from his high character was conſidered as alſo likely to do credit to the appointment.

In fact, if the Biſhop of Durham had died within a year and a half of his tranſlation to that ſee, his family would have ſuffered conſiderable loſs, in conſequence of Firſt-Fruits, Fees, Dilapidations, and ſuch other expences as are neceſſarily incident to taking poſſeſſion of that See, independently of the caſualty of the fall of Tyne Bridge, in November, 1771.

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and immunities, in the moſt ample and advantageous form [*D*], he ſelected the Members of the new Corporation, with great care, out of the moſt moderate and reſpectable of the citizens, regardleſs of every conſideration but its peace and due regulation; objects which he ſteadily held in view, and in the attainment of which he ſucceeded to his utmoſt wiſh, and far beyond his expectation.

A Conduct, equally calculated to promote order and good government, he diſplayed, if poſſible, ſtill more conſpicuouſly in the Spiritual, than in the Temporal department of his double office. Towards the Chapter, and towards the body of the Clergy at large, he exerciſed every good office, making them all look up to him as their common friend and father: and, to thoſe who had enjoyed the ſpecial favour of his predeceſſor, he was particularly kind and attentive, both from a ſenſe of their merit, and that he might mitigate in ſome degree their loſs of ſo excellent a friend and patron.

In the diſcharge of all his Epiſcopal functions, he was diligent and conſcientious. He was extremely ſcrupulous whom he admitted into holy orders, in reſpect of their learning, character, and religious tenets. In his Viſitations, he urged and enforced the regularity, the decorum, and the well-being of the Church, by a particular enquiry into the conduct of its Miniſters, encouraging them to reſide upon their ſeveral benefices, and manifeſting upon all opportunities a ſincere and active concern for the intereſts and accommodation of the inferior Clergy. His Charges were the exact tranſcripts of his mind: objections have been made to ſome compoſitions of this kind, that they bear the ſemblance of being as ſpecious as ſincere, and are calculated ſometimes, perhaps, rather a little more to raiſe the reputation of their author as a fine writer, than to edify the miniſtry and advance Religion. Of the Charges his Lordſhip delivered, it may truly be ſaid, that, upon ſuch occaſions, he recommended nothing to his Clergy which he did not practiſe in his life and approve in his cloſet. Some years before his death, his health not permitting him to go into the more diſtant parts of his dioceſe, he gave a commiſſion to Dr. Law, then Biſhop of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, to viſit and confirm in Northumberland, with the aſſiſtance of the Archdeacon, confining his perſonal attendance to the county of Durham.

The Preferments in his diſpoſal he gave with a truly paſtoral care: with many of them he rewarded the provincial clergy, on account of their learning and other merits.

In a remarkable inſtance, in which he wiſhed to prefer a particular friend, he declined indulging his inclination, from a conviction, that the perſon he was deſirous to promote was not entirely orthodox in his tenets, making a covenant with himſelf, that his affection ſhould not preſs upon his duty.

The manner and circumſtances in which the two valuable pieces of preferment, of Sherborne Hoſpital [*E*], and the Firſt Stall [*F*], were given to their preſent poſſeſſors, evinced, in the one inſtance, the diſintereſted liberality of the gift, and, in the other, the high and ſacred obligation of a promiſe operating upon his mind long after the deceaſe of the perſon to whom it was made; at the ſame time, that, by diſappointing the application of an opulent relation [*G*], from whom he had expectations, his Lordſhip leſſened ſuch hopes as otherwiſe he might more reaſonably have entertained.

The Hoſpitality he maintained at Durham and Auckland well became his birth and ſtation. Where men ſhare freely of the luxuries they give, it may be difficult to aſſign the motives of the giver, and exactly to aſcertain how much proceeds from genuine hoſpitality, and how much from the love of perſonal indulgence. Of his motives there

[*D*] *Freely reſtored to the city all its antient rights, privileges, and immunities, in the moſt ample and advantageous form.*] His Lordſhip granted a new Charter to the city of Durham upon the 2d of October, 1780. See the copy of the Charter, and minutes of the proceedings, from page 37 to page 56 of the ſecond Volume of Hutchinſon's Hiſtory of Durham.

[*E*] *Of Sherborne Hoſpital.*] He allowed Dr. Dampier, the late Dean of Durham, to reſign Sherborne Hoſpital, when his health was viſibly declining, in favour of his ſon, partly to oblige a mutual friend, and partly out of regard to the Dean, and the deſerved eſtimation he was held in at Durham.

[*F*] *And the Firſt Stall.*] After the Duke of Newcaſtle's death, the Ducheſs of Newcaſtle requeſted his Lordſhip (at that time Biſhop of Bangor) to prefer Dr. Cooper, if ever it ſhould be in his power; and he promiſed that he would. Many years after her death, the Firſt Stall became vacant, and he gave it to Dr. Cooper, who did not even expect it would be offered to him. A very near relation of the Biſhop was at that time within a few months of being of age to take prieſt's orders, and it might have been kept for him, as an intimate friend of his Lordſhip, who was then a dignified clergyman, and has ſince been made a biſhop, offered to hold it, giving a bond of reſignation. His Lordſhip diſapproved of bonds of reſignation; but that conſideration did not weigh with him in this particular caſe.

It may here caſually be obſerved, that no man perhaps ever had a greater averſion to what in common diſcourſe is called a job. He was too upright to condeſcend to obtain his ends by artifices or practices which in any view might have the appearance of colluſion.

[*G*] *An opulent relation.*] The opulent relation was Samuel Egerton, Eſq. of Tatton Park, Member for Cheſhire, and one of the richeſt Commoners in England. The application was made after Mr. Egerton was old and infirm, had loſt his only child, and might leave his property to whom he pleaſed.

could be no ſuch doubt: his temperance reſtrained him from partaking of what his liberality afforded to others, and he ſat daily with a rigid abſtinence at a table ſupplied with every delicacy: he took care it ſhould be regulated with the utmoſt taſte: it was plenty under the controul of elegance. His attention, his manners, and converſation, gave an additional reliſh to the whole, and rendered the ſociety of his houſe complete. Inſtead of ſetting apart particular days, as had been cuſtomary, his houſe was always open, always filled by his numerous relations and friends, and the nobility, clergy, and principal families of the dioceſe.

Such was the wiſe Œconomy preſerved by his Lordſhip, that the expence attending his hoſpitality and munificence was no obſtruction to his well-directed Benefactions. Beſides many gifts and charities beſtowed on indigent clergymen and their families, and other deſerving characters in diſtreſs, with a delicacy that gave them a double value, and which, during his life, were induſtriouſly concealed, he continued to his death all the bounties he had annually given in his two former dioceſes of Bangor and of Lichfield and Coventry, as well as all the numerous benefactions of his predeceſſors at Durham, increaſing thoſe to the Sons of the Clergy, whom he was particularly ſolicitous to ſupport, and thoſe to the Infirmary at Newcaſtle.

To St. Anne's Chapel in Auckland, to the ſchools of Wolſingham, Norton, and many other places, he gave particular benefactions; and, whenever it was practicable, he made it a condition of his conſent, upon the incloſure of waſte lands, that twenty or thirty acres ſhould be given to the living, where it was ſmall, over and above the allotment to which it was entitled.

To the County, in general, he was a great benefactor, as well as to the Copyholders in particular. He promoted the incloſure of Walling Fen in Howdenſhire, which could never have been accompliſhed without his interpoſition, on account of the many oppoſite intereſts concerned in it, by which ſix thouſand acres were drained and cultivated, and now preſent the agreeable and uſeful proſpect of numerous farms and cottages, a new town, and a navigation [*H*].

He applied to Parliament to exonerate the Copyholders of Lancheſter-fell, and Hamſteel's fell, of the Lord's right to the timber, a meaſure highly uſeful and liberal; in conſequence of which, many trees are planted on a ſurface of nearly thirty thouſand acres, and are become already ornamental to the country, and will in time be uſeful to the nation.

He conſented to an Act of parliament for infranchiſing certain Copyholds in the Manor of Howdenſhire, for the accommodation and convenience of the tenants, by enabling them to convey their lands with more eaſe and ſafety, and at the ſame time without prejudice to the Lord.

In the great flood of November, 1771, the whole of the bridge over the Tyne, between Newcaſtle and Gateſhead, was either ſwept away, or ſo much damaged as to render the taking it down neceſſary. Of the expence of rebuilding it, the See of Durham was ſubject to one third, and the Corporation of Newcaſtle to the remainder. Parliament enabled the Biſhop to raiſe, by life-annuities, chargeable upon the See, a ſum ſufficient for re-building his proportion. The Surveyors for the Biſhop and Corporation diſagreeing, the bridge is not rebuilt upon a regular plan, which was ſo contrary to his Lordſhip's wiſhes, that he offered to advance to the Corporation the amount of his one-third, that they might undertake the management of the whole, and finiſh it uniformly; which propoſal was not accepted. In the progreſs of this buſineſs, he not only conſented that his expence ſhould be enlarged, but likewiſe that his income ſhould be diminiſhed; for, he agreed to the widening of the new bridge, by which the expences of re-building were increaſed; and then, to alleviate the loſſes of his tenants who had houſes on the old bridge, he gave them full leaſes for building upon the new, without taking any fine; but, as building upon the new-bridge would impair its beauty, and be an inconvenience to the public, he gave up his own intereſts in the ſites of the houſes, on condition, that his tenants ſhould have an equivalent on another ſpot, upon agreeing not to build upon the new bridge; and he then procured it to be enacted by parliament, that no houſes ſhould, in future, be built upon the new bridge, though the renewal of the leaſes of the buildings, that otherwiſe might have been erected thereon, would have produced him a conſiderable income.

The important rights of property, which had been long in diſpute between the See and the reſpectable family of Clavering, were brought, by his means, to an amicable concluſion; and the rights of boundary, which his predeceſſors had long been litigating, were fully aſcertained: and when, by authority of parliament, he granted a leaſe of the eſtates in queſtion, for three lives; he gave the fine he received for the leaſe to his leſſee of the mines, in conſideration of the expences which were formerly incurred by him in defending the right.

[*H*] *Navigation.*] From Market Weighton to the Humber.

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It may truly be conſidered as no ſmall proof of his moderation, that, notwithſtanding for nearly ſixteen years he held the biſhoprick of Durham, in which the rights of property are ſo various and extenſive, the perſons with whom he had to tranſact buſineſs ſo numerous, and in their expectations, perhaps, not always reaſonable, he had during that whole period but one law-ſuit; and though there are in theſe times certainly no improper prejudices in favour of the claims of the Church, that law-ſuit was, by a Jury of the County, determined in his favour. It was inſtituted to prevent the *onus* of repairing the road between Auckland-park and the river Wear from being fixed upon his ſucceſſors, to whoſe intereſt he was always properly attentive.

He adjuſted the quota of the land-tax of the eſtates in London belonging to the See, procuring to himſelf and his ſucceſſors an abatement of 13-20ths of what had been before unduly paid; and he greatly increaſed the rents of the Epiſcopal demeſnes in Stockton.

His additions and improvements at the Epiſcopal palaces, offices, and grounds, did equal credit to his taſte and liberality. Excluſively of ſuch as he made in the Caſtle and Offices at Durham, by fitting up the great Breakfaſt-room, now uſed as a Drawing-room, and by enlarging and repairing the Stables, and their dependencies; at Auckland-caſtle, where he chiefly reſided, his Improvements were equally well judged, and much more various and expenſive. At the north-eaſt entrance of Auckland-demeſne, which, in the approach from Durham, opens the extenſive and magnificent ſcene of the Park and Caſtle, he built a Porter's Lodge and a Gate-way, and ornamented theſe with large Plantations: and the new Apartments at the ſouth of the Caſtle, which were begun by his Predeceſſor, he completed, and made into a magnificent ſuite of rooms. The Great Room he fitted up, and new furniſhed the Chapel. The Steward's Houſe, as well as the Offices and Stables, he enlarged, repaired, and altered into regular buildings; and he lowered the walls of the Court and Bowling-green, to the great beauty of the ſcenery from the houſe. With the moneys ariſing from the ſale of the rents and fines in Howdenſhire, he bought the park-cloſes, the haver-cloſes, and other grounds adjoining to the park, with ſome houſes and tenements in Auckland; he conſiderably extended the Park-wall, intending to continue it round the whole: the Kitchen-garden he greatly enlarged, and ſecured it by a Stone Pier from the river Gaunleſs: he built another Stone pier and Wall, to cover part of the park from the ravages of the river Wear; he embanked againſt the Gaunleſs in its whole courſe through the park, and formed in it many beautiful Falls. He ornamented the park and demeſne-lands with various Plantations, draining, and improving the whole with much judgement, and eſpecially the Park-farm, which he incloſed. All the Grounds he kept in the very neateſt order, imploying the oldeſt and moſt indigent perſons in the neighbourhood. In Belbourne wood, he cut ſeveral Walks and Ridings, and totally re-built the Lodge-houſe and Farm, which preſents a beautiful object to the Caſtle.

Notwithſtanding all theſe expences, he was liberal and indulgent to his Tenants, remitting many fines, and taking no more than One year's rent for a renewal of Seven years, or One life: attempts, however, were ſometimes made to abuſe his lenity and indulgence [*1*].

He diſcharged all the Duties of his high and arduous ſtation with a ſteadineſs that was very remarkable: he not only knew what was right, but acted conformably to that knowledge: though he ſet a proper value upon the opinions of mankind, no man was leſs under the influence of vain popularity; and when, upon reflection, he had thoroughly ſatisfied his own mind, regardleſs of the world, and the world's law, he would never ſuffer the prejudices of others to ſuperſede and cancel the higher obligations of what he conceived to be his duty. This firmneſs of diſpoſition, advantageous in ſo many points of view, fitted him peculiarly for the adminiſtration of the great and various powers with which he was entruſted.

MEN diſtinguiſhed in public, do not always appear to advantage in their private characters. The life of this Prelate may well be conſidered in both theſe views; for, each will throw a luſtre upon the other.

In the following ſketch, however, we mean to delineate only ſuch ſelect traits, as

[*1*] *Attempts were ſometimes made to abuſe his lenity and indulgence.*] A gentleman applied to his Lordſhip to exchange a life, which he ſtated to be a very good one, and ſaid, that the reaſon which induced him to make this requeſt was merely that he had a quarrel with the man, and wiſhed to have nothing to do even with his name; whereas the fact was, that the quarrel, if ever it had taken place, was certainly made up; and the man, whoſe life in the leaſe was deſired to be exchanged, was dying, and was attended by a phyſician at the expence of the leſſee.

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were more peculiar in him, and are not common to all other men.

His perſon was tall and well formed, uniting elegance and ſtrength: his countenance was ingenuous, animated, and engaging. By nature, he was endowed with ſtrong and lively parts, a good temper, and an active diſpoſition. Deſcended from noble anceſtors, and initiated, from his birth, in the moſt honourable connections, his manners and ſentiments were caſt, from an early age, in the happieſt mould, and gave all the advantages of that eaſe and propriety of behaviour which were ſo very obſervable even in the moſt indifferent actions of his life.

In his addreſs there was a peculiar mixture of dignity and affability, by which he had the remarkable art both of encouraging thoſe who were diffident, and checking thoſe who were preſumptuous.

The vivacity of his ſpirits and converſation, and the peculiar propriety of his manners, made him univerſally admired and careſſed.

His memory was accurate and extenſive. In deſcribing the characters, and in relating the anecdotes and tranſactions, with which he had been acquainted, he took particular delight; and this, when his health permitted, he did with much ſpirit, and often with the utmoſt pleaſantry and humour; but ſcrupulouſly taking care, that the deſire of ornamenting any narrative ſhould never, in the ſmalleſt degree, induce him to depart from the truth of it. With ſo rare and happy a talent for deſcription, with a mind ſtored with much information, and a memory very retentive, he was one of the moſt inſtructive and entertaining of companions: his converſation was enriched with pertinent and uſeful obſervations, and enlivened by genuine wit and humorous anecdote.

He had a very peculiar art of extricating himſelf with much immediate addreſs from thoſe little embarraſſments which perplex and confound many, and which often occur in ſociety from the awkwardneſs of others, or from a concurrence of ſingular and unexpected circumſtances. When preſſed by improper queſtions [*K*], inſtead of being offended with them himſelf, or giving offence by his replies, he had a talent of returning very ready and very dexterous anſwers.

In every ſort of emergency, as well in perſonal danger, as in difficulties of an inferior nature, he ſhewed an uncommon preſence of mind. He poſſeſſed a great reach of underſtanding, and was ſingularly gifted with a quick and ready judgement, deciding rightly upon the inſtant [*L*] when it was neceſſary. No man was better qualified, or at the ſame time more averſe to give his opinion; which, upon many occaſions, he found difficulty in avoiding, its value being ſo well known, that it was often ſolicited by his friends; and, when he was prevailed upon, he delivered it rather with the humility of one who aſked, than with the authority of one who gave, advice.

In forming his friendſhips, he was as cautious as he was ſteady and uniform in adhering to them. He was extremely partial to the friendſhips of his youth, and made a particular point of being uſeful to thoſe with whom he had been thus early connected.

It is remarkable, that there did not, upon any occaſion, exiſt in his mind the leaſt deſire of revenge. Men, who are open and entire in their friendſhips, are commonly ſo in their enmities; with him it was otherwiſe; for, though not without a ſenſe of injuries, he was at all times forgiving. Happy in this diſpoſition, his reſentments of courſe were ſhort, and his friendſhips laſting.

In all the domeſtic relations of life [*M*], he was exemplary as a huſband, a maſter, and a parent. Inſtead of holding over his children an authority founded upon intereſt, during his life he put them into poſſeſſion of a great part of ſuch fortunes as they would have inherited from him upon his death, willing to have their obedience proceed, not merely from a ſenſe of duty, but from gratitude, and from pure diſintereſted affection.

He had an extenſive knowledge both of men and things, of which he ſtudiouſly avoided any diſplay. It may be ſaid with the utmoſt truth, that in every action of his life, however deſerving of praiſe, he rather declined than courted it; and whenever any thing that had a tendency to his commendation was accidentally introduced into converſation either by his friends or dependants, ſo far from thinking it his due, he ap-

[*K*] *When preſſed by improper queſtions.*] The following are two inſtances, among the many that might be alluded to:—To a gentleman who indulged rather an unneceſſary curioſity, in inquring of him what he inherited from his father? what was his wife's fortune? and what was the value of his living of Roſs? He anſwered to the firſt queſtion, "not ſo "much as he expected;" to the ſecond, "not ſo "much as was reported;" and to the third, "more "than he made of it."

A Gentleman requiring of him the renewal of a leaſe, upon terms far ſhort of its real value, and the Biſhop refuſing, the Gentleman aſſigned as a reaſon why the propoſal ought to be accepted, that his Lordſhip was in ſuch a declining ſtate of health, as to render his life very precarious, implying that it was very improbable he ſhould live long: upon this the Biſhop very readily remarked, "Since "that was the caſe, the Gentleman muſt be con-"vinced, that his own intereſt was but a ſecondary "conſideration to him, and his principal object muſt "be to do no injury to his ſucceſſors."

[*L*] *Deciding rightly upon the inſtant.*] Φύσιως μὲν δυνάμει, μελέτης δὲ βραχύτητι, κράτιστος δὴ ἄτος αὐτοσχεδιάζειν τὰ δέοντα ἐγενήθη.

Thucydides de Themiſtocle, lib. 1. ſect 138.

[*M*] *In all the domeſtic relations of life.*] His Lordſhip was married a ſecond time, on the 31ſt of March, 1782, to Mary, ſiſter of Sir Edward Boughton, Bart. who ſurvived him without iſſue.

peared

peared rather to ſuſpect the one of partiality, and the other of flattery. This averſion to ſhow and parade ran through the whole of his character, ſo much that the ſeveral public appearances and proceſſions his ſtation required, which might be conſidered as a part, and to many would have been a pleaſing part of their duty, were irkſome to him. The ſame freedom from oſtentation was obſervable with regard to his literary endowments; and from that motive, as well as from his abhorrence of controverſy, and perhaps alſo from a conviction that there were already too many writers, he was ever diſinclined to write for the public [*N*]. His merit as a ſcholar was, however, well known, and properly eſtimated, by ſuch of his private friends as were themſelves diſtinguiſhed by their erudition [*O*].

In the early part of his life he was fond of thoſe manly exerciſes which give ſtrength and vigour both to the body and mind, without ſuffering them to interrupt his ſtudies; a practice which, thus regulated, inſtead of being injurious, is ſerviceable to learning; and which men, eminent for their judgement, have lamented was not more cultivated and improved. His uſual relaxations were ſuch as yet exerciſed the underſtanding; and Cheſs, at which he was a ſtrong player, was his favourite amuſement. The Greek and Latin tongues were familiar to him: he ſpoke the French and Italian languages; and wrote and ſpoke his own with purity, preciſion, elegance, and eaſe. In every thing he had pure taſte. — He was fond of books, and collected a very good library; and he was converſant in the *belles lettres*, in the arts and ſciences, and in whatever elſe may be ſuppoſed to fall within the circle of polite education.

But the feature, which in him was as prominent as it is lovely, was a perfect union of dignity and humility. In ſociety, with perſons of his own rank, he maintained his equality; and in his intercourſe with the inferior ranks of men, where vice did not forbid, he ſtooped with the utmoſt condeſcenſion to the loweſt. To all who had any buſineſs or concerns with him, he was acceſſible and ſincerely affable, and more eſpecially to the inferior Clergy.

Benevolent to man, and reverent towards God, he conſidered himſelf in the comprehenſive view of one bound by the tie of fraternity to all men; and his whole conduct beſpoke him only ambitious, as far as human frailty will permit, of humbly imitating HIM, who is the pattern of all. By good works, he manifeſted the ſincerity of his faith: "True religion," ſaid he, in one of his diſcourſes, "conſiſts in the love of God, "and the love of our neighbour; not in an empty profeſſion of love to God, but in "ſuch a love as will manifeſt itſelf by faith, obedience, and adoration; and in ſuch a "love of our neighbour as muſt prove itſelf to be undiſſembled, diſintereſted, and "productive of all ſocial virtues. But let us never be unmindful," continued he, "that "the firſt and great duty is the love of God, or piety; for it is this which muſt give "life and ſpirit to the performance of every other duty: in fine, it is this which exalts "our morality into Chriſtianity; and it is Chriſtianity alone which can entitle us to a "laſting happineſs."

His health had been declining for many years; and, though he was neither ſo old nor ſo infirm as to look upon death as a releaſe, he lived as if he hourly expected it; ſtriving however to preſerve life by every proper means, valuing the gift, and bleſſing the GIVER, but reſigned at all times to yield it at his will. He conſidered his diſſolution, not with the falſe pride of a Stoic, but with the religious indifference of a Chriſtian philoſopher. To the laſt he retained his faculties, and, reviewed the main tranſactions and occurrences of his life, gratefully acknowledging what happineſs he had experienced, and how good God had been to him: and, when the debt came to be paid, he reſigned his breath calmly, without a groan, and with ſuch compoſure and expreſſions as ſeemed to anticipate, in ardent hope, the poſſeſſion of a better country, and beſpoke that the ſoul and body had agreed to part only for a time, as friends, to meet in truer and ſublimer love.

He died at his houſe in Groſvenor-Square, London, on the 18th of January, 1787, and, by his own expreſs deſire, was privately interred in St. James's Church, under the communion-table, near his Father.

[*N*] *He was ever diſinclined to write for the public.*] He left nothing behind him in print, except three ſermons; one preached before the Lords, the 11th of February, 1757, being a general faſt; another before the Lords, the 30th of January, 1761; and a third before the Society for the Propagation of the Goſpel, on the 18th of February, 1763.

[*O*] *By ſuch of his friends as were themſelves diſtinguiſhed by their erudition.*] Amongſt many others, we may name Archbiſhop Secker, Benſon Biſhop of Glouceſter, Butler Biſhop of Durham, the late Lord Lyttelton, the late Lord Egremont, the late Mr. George Grenville, Mr. William Gerard Hamilton, Mr. Anſtey, Mr. Richard Owen Cambridge, Mr. Garrick, Mr. Stillingfleet, Mr. J. Nourſe, author of ſeveral pieces of poetry in Dodſley's Collection, Dr. Croxall, Sir William Draper, &c. &c.